

Message Text

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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3895
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO WHITE HOUSE

ROME FOR VICE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CE

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: POGOV, OVIP (MONDALE, WLATER F.) WB
SUBJECT: VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT TO BERLIN: POLITICAL ASSESSMENT

1. SUMMARY: BRIEF VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO BERLIN
ON JANUARY 26 HAS HAD STRONG IMPACT. HIS SPEECH IN RATHAUS
SCHOENEBOURG WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY GERMAN POLITICAL LEADERS
WHO NOTED WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THAT IT CONTAINED ALL
ESSENTIAL POINTS ON BERLIN'S STATUS AND FUTURE. BERLINERS
OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS DEEPLY APPRECIATED SIGNIFICANCE
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OF VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT SO SOON AFTER INAUGURAL. END SUMMARY

2. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE MADE TWO HOUR VISIT TO BERLIN
ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26. BERLIN POLITICAL
LEADERS, WHO HAD PRESSED FOR INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN
VICE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP AFTER IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED BY
PRESIDENT CARTER ON JANUARY 8, WERE NATURALLY DELIGHTED

WHEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT TWO-HOUR STOP WOULD BE MADE ENROUTE FROM BONN TO ROME. AS BERLIN MORGENPOST EXPRESSED IT IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIALS IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN MORNING OF VISIT: " WHETHER FOR TWO OR TWENTY-TWO HOURS...WHAT REALLY COUNTS IS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, BY SENDING HIS DEPUTY, PROMPTLY AND WITH DEMONSTRATIVE VIGOR SEEKS TO CONFIRM THE LASTING COMMITMENT OF THE USA TO THE INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM OF OUR CITY."

3. BRIEF BUT COLORFUL ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT FRENCH MILITARY SIDE OF TEGEL AIRPORT, FEATURING FRENCH, BRITISH AND AMERICAN HONOR GUARDS, SET TONE FOR VISIT. VICE PRESIDENT WAS INTRODUCED TO ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ AND HE TOLD THEM AND OTHER ASSEMBLED GUESTS AND PRESS THAT US SHARED WITH THE CITIZENS OF BERLIN " THE DEMOCRATIC VALUES OF FREEDOM, OF JUSTICE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS," AND THAT THE US STOOD WITH THE CITIZENS OF BERLIN " IN THE PROTECTION OF THESE RIGHTS."

4. VICE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE TRAVELLED TO RATHAUS SCHOENEGBERG VIA BRANDENBURG GATE. AS IT PASSED UNIVERSITY, VERY SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS (APPROXIMATELY THIRTY), APPARENTLY MAOISTS DEMONSTRATING ABOUT UNRELATED UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS, MADE RUDE OR THREATENING GESTURES TOWARD MOTOCAR. AT BRANDENBURG GATE, BRITISH COMMANDANT GREETED VICE PRESIDENT AND ESCORTED HIM TO VIEWING STAND. THIS WAS VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES AS BRANDENBURG GATE IS IN BRITISH SECTOR, TEGEL AIRPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN FRENCH SECTOR, AND RATHAUS SCHOENEGBERG IN AMERICAN SECTOR. WHEN MOTORCADE APPROACHED TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AREA AGAIN ENROUTE TO RATHAUS, ANOTHER SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS CHEERED, WAVED AND MADE FRIENDLY GESTURES, NEATLY COUNTERING EARLIER DEMONSTRATION.

5. AS VICE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE APPROACH RATHAUS, THE FREEDOM BELL, A GIFT TWENTY-SIX YEARS AGO TO PEOPLE OF BERLIN FROM PEOPLE OF US, TOLLED A WELCOME (IT NORMALLY ONLY RINGS ONCE A DAY -- AT NOON). IN DEPARTURE FROM SCENARIO, VICE PRESIDENT UPON DISEMBARKING FROM CAR WENT TO BARRIER IN MIDDLE OF JOHN F. KENNEDY PLATZ (RATHAUS SQUARE) TO SHAKE HANDS WITH MANY OF APPROXIMATELY 400 PEOPLE ASSEMBLED THERE. (IN VIEW OF TIGHT SCHEDULE AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, BERLIN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT TRIED TO GET PEOPLE TO COME TO PLATZ). ONE SIGN IN EVIDENCE SAID " STANFORD U. IN BERLIN WELCOMES FRITZ MONDALE". A BERLIN WOMAN TOLD VICE PRESIDENT " WE LOVE YOU." MR. MONDALE WAS THEN SHOWN PLAQUE ON RATHAUS WALL

HONORING PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

6. VICE PRESIDENT WAS ESCORTED TO BRANDENBURG HALL, LONG NARROW RECEPTION HALL WHICH IS TRADITIONALLY UTILIZED FOR CEREMONIES OF THIS KIND. HE WAS GREETED AT DOOR BY PRESIDENT OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LORENZ. FOLLOWING INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ, VICE PRESIDENT DELIVERED BRIEF SPEECH WHICH WAS INTERPRETED INTO GERMAN. LORENZ THEN THANKED VICE PRESIDENT FOR HIS VISIT.

7. VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS HIGH POINT OF VISIT AND RECEIVED ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME FROM APPROXIMATELY 400 INVITED GUESTS. VICE PRESIDENT BEGAN BY NOTING HIS PLEASURE AT BEING TOLD BY SMILING LADY IN FRONT OF RATHAUS THAT THE BERLINERS LOVED HIM. HE EXPLAINED PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT AND NOTED THAT CONSULTATIONS IN EUROPE WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HELP IN PROCESS OF REDUCING TENSIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. MR. MONDALE WAS INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE WHEN HE SAID THAT THE US WOULD "RESIST ANY ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE FREEDOM" OF BERLIN. HE EMPHASIZED THAT BERLIN WAS PART OF WESTERN WORLD AS EVIDENCED BY ITS CLOSE TIES TO FRG AND PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (MORE APPLAUSE). VICE PRESIDENT LISTED THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES: FOR MAINTAINING STABILITY OF BERLIN SITUATION. CONTINUED RESPECT FOR FOUR POWER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BERLIN AS A WHOLE; RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN FUTURE HAD TO BE RESPECTED; AND STRICT OBSERVANCE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. APPROPRIATELY, MR. MONDALE CLOSED WITH REFERENCE TO FREEDOM BELL. SPEECH WAS CARRIED LIVE BY GERMAN NETWORK RADIO AND TV.

8. FRG AND BERLIN POLITICAL LEADERS WITH WHOM MISOFFS SPOKE ABOUT SPEECH WERE ENTHUSIASTIC. FONMIN GENSCHER WAS "DELIGHTED" AND SAID SPEECH "CONTAINED EVERY ELEMENT WE COULD HAVE DESIRED". GENSCHER ADDED THAT VISIT, SHORT AS IT WAS, WAS "WORTH MORE TO BERLIN THAN ADDITIONAL SUBSIDY OF 100 MILLION DM." GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ SUMMARIZED SPEECH AND ENTIRE VISIT BY EXCLAIMING "EXCELLENT* EXCELLENT*" SENATOR NEUBAUER PRAISED SPEECH FOR CONTAINING ALL POINTS CONSIDERED BY BERLINERS TO BE IMPORTANT. MAYOR LUEDER WAS VISIBLY IMPRESSED AND NOTED THAT VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER. (SEVERAL JOURNALISTS REMARKED TO MISOFF THAT VICE PRESIDENT SAID THE THINGS SECRETARY KISSINGER SHOULD HAVE SAID IN HIS SPEECH AT THE RATHAUS TWO YEARS AGO). BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH COMMANDANTS PRAISED SPEECH HIGHLY.

9. WHILE VICE PRESIDENT WAS BEING INTRODUCED TO AS MANY OF GUESTS IN BRANDENBURG HALL AS POSSIBLE, A YET UNIDENTIFIED GERMAN-SPEAKING MALE TELEPHONED POLICE TO SAY THAT VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE ASSASSINATED UPON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAVING RATHAUS. SECRET SERVICE WAS IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED; DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS WERE NOT CHANGED. NO SECURITY PROBLEMS EMERGED.

10. AS VICE PRESIDENT EMERGED FROM RATHAUS, TWO YOUNG CHILDREN (APPROXIMATELY SIX OR SEVEN YEARS OF AGE) WORKED THEIR WAY THROUGH CROWD AND PRESENTED HIM WITH BOUQUET OF FLOWERS. VISIBLY TOUCHED, MR. MONDALE LIFTED THE TWO YOUNGSTERS UP IN HIS ARMS TO THANK THEM TO THE DELIGHT OF ALL ASSEMBLED. HE THEN ENTERED HIS CAR FOR SHORT DRIVE TO AIRPORT.

11. AS PLANNED , THERE WAS NO DEPARTURE STATEMENT FROM AIRPORT. AFTER SAYING FAREWELL TO ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND GOVERNING MAYOR, MR. MONDALE, IN KEEPING WITH BERLIN TRADITION AND HIS PERSONAL STYLE, SHOOK HANDS WITH EACH POLICEMAN IN HIS MOTORCYCLE ESCORT AND THE POLICE GROUP COMMANDER RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, HE THEN BOARDED AIRCRAFT WHICH TOOK OFF VERY CLOSE TO SCHEDULE.

12. COMMENT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BERLIN WAS GREAT SUCCESS. BERLINERS, GIVEN THEIR ISOLATED GEOGRAPHIC AND POLITICAL POSITION, NEVER TIRE OF RECEIVING REASSURANCE OF AMERICAN COMMITMENT. FACT THAT PRESIDENT HAD SENT MR. MONDALE TO BERLIN TO GIVE THAT REASSURANCE SO SOON AFTER TAKING OFFICE WAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED BY BERLINERS AS PARTICULARLY GOOD OMEN. VISIT ALSO SERVED TO REMIND EAST GERMANS AND SOVIETS THAT WE ARE DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW OUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL OF BERLIN TO BE UNDERMINED. END COMMENT.

13. FULL TEXT OF MONDALE REMARKS FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.
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